

LIFE IN A HAREM.

STORY OF AN ENGLISH SHOP GIRL WHO MARRIED A PERSIAN.

He was First Cousin of the Shah—Took His Wife to India After They had Spent Two Happy Years in England—She Then Learned She Was Wife No. 4.

Seven years ago Miss Frances Blackman was a stall girl at the Crystal Palace, and sold ivory bric-a-brac to whomsoever would buy. She was a rather pretty girl, and at the time of the Shah's visit to England captivated the fancy of a dark skinned nobleman of the potentate's party.

This man proved to be Abdullah Hussein Khan, a cousin of the Shah, and a man of great wealth and influence in his own country. Stopping one day at the stalls he was greatly attracted by Miss Blackman and bought some trifles from her. He returned the next day and bought some more.

When he appeared the third day Miss Blackman perceived that it was she, and not her wares, that attracted the dark skinned stranger, and thereupon the romance began. History is silent upon the details of the courtship, but it is known that he gave her many costly gifts of exquisite Eastern workmanship and eventually proposed, was accepted and married her. The ceremony was celebrated in a Roman Catholic church in the beginning of 1890.

Abdullah Hussein Khan was from the beginning exceedingly fond of his pretty English bride. He obtained permission to remain in England when the Shah went home, and hired a handsome flat at Hyde Park Mansions, where he lived in supreme happiness for nearly two years. He had told his wife of his rank and his wealth, but he had not yet mentioned the fact that he already had three other wives at home.

But in 1892 there came a command from the Shah to return home. Abdullah had by this time decided to make England his home. He was a man of cultivation and had found European civilization much to his taste.

But, under penalty of forfeiting his estates, he was obliged to obey the Shah's orders, and when he reached Teheran he had to tell his English bride that she was only No. 4. One can imagine the scene, the tears, the protestations and all the rest. But there was nothing for the young wife to do but to submit, and she had the satisfaction of being the preferred wife, the first lady of the harem.

A few months ago Abdullah suddenly died, much to his wife's grief. His eldest son, jealous because his father had settled so much property upon Beebee's little son, seized the house and sealed the doors. Beebee broke the seals, and was arrested, and three attempts were made to poison her, the last so nearly successful that an English doctor barely succeeded in saving her life. Through the intervention of the British Legation she finally obtained her property and sailed for London, where she recently arrived with her boy.

This little boy, Allah Nasrit, or the "Gift of God," has exchanged the baggy satin trousers and loose silken coat, set off with diamond buttons, of his own country for the sailor costume of a British tar. He is a handsome, clever boy, and at the age of four already displays the autocracy enjoyed by his max in Persia.

"He much needs the discipline of an English school," says his mother, "for in Persia his word was law. Being co-heir with an only brother, he was lord of the village in which we lived, and every child was his slave. When brought in to amuse him, if their bows were not sufficiently reverential and conduct irreproachable, he issued instructions, and the small offenders were promptly beaten, for Persian boys are taught tyranny from the cradle."—New York Herald.

VARIETIES. A school teacher at Port Allegheeny, N. Y., the other day received the following note: "My boy tells me that when I think beer der overcoat from my stummeck gets too thick. Please be so kind and don't interfere in my family affairs."

The mischievous little sparrow brings up more young ones in the course of the year than any of our birds. It generally lays from March until September, broods being brought up with scarcely any interval. The nest contains, on an average, five eggs.

Sylvia Du Maurier, one of George Du Maurier's daughters, apprenticed herself to Mrs. Nettleship, a noted London dressmaker, for a year, and went through all the work of dress-making from the beginning to the finish.

The German traveller Von Ihering has discovered in Brazil a species of ants which have regular summer and winter resorts. In winter they live on the ground, in summer in big nests constructed on trees, in order to escape the danger of inundation when the snow melts and the rivers rise.

SILK FROM THE SPURCE TREE.

Great Care Used in the Process of Making the Silk-Like Fibres.

Silk of excellent quality is being made from the spruce tree in Europe, and a movement is on foot to establish the industry in this country. It is said that the cost of making silk by this process is one-fifth that of the spinning from the silk worm cocoon. The fibre takes dye as readily as the animal product, and can be woven as securely and as rapidly. It is also claimed that the tensile strength of the fabric is as great as, if not greater than, the real silk. In trying to hit upon the particular great as, if not greater than, the real silk chemical process that the original fibre went through before it was spun as silk by the loom, he found that after the fibre had been separated it needed the chemical action of a certain form of glucose. In the new treatment the tree is crushed, and the resulting fibre is mixed with glucose and then placed in deep metal tubs. A disk, somewhat like a steam piston, is then forced down on the mass by hydraulic pressure until it is compressed into a very heavy gum. At the bottom of the tubs are tubes terminating in tiny glass nipples, with exceedingly small apertures. Under the hydraulic pressure the mixture is forced out of these glass nipples in silk-like fibres, which are so fine that the girls who are employed in this portion of the process are obliged to wear highly magnifying glasses in order to distinguish when any of the fibres break. The material is then carried over electrically-heated drums, which dry the ether and the alcohol out of it. It is then plunged into ice water, dried, and spooled for the looms.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Auctions in Japan. There is little chance for fraud or complaint in the matter of conducting auction sales in Japan. Although there are not nearly so many sales held there as in this country, officials of the cities have a way of conducting them much similar to our method of voting.

When an auction is to take place, the goods or property is advertised for two weeks ahead. On the day of the sale each bidder writes his name and address and the amount of his bid for each lot on a slip of paper, which he carefully places in a box. When all the bids are in the auctioneer opens the box in the presence of the spectators, and, after examining, all the goods are declared the property of the highest bidder. By this system the American custom of owners bidding in property on goods would almost entirely disappear.

Fox Terrier a Transparency. The fox terrier is now officially registered as a transparency, the X ray shining through him like a candle through a Chinese lantern. The experiment has been tried on an animal of this species which had swallowed a diamond ring, the trinket appearing in its midst, visible as a goldfish in a glass vase or a fly in amber. The utilities of this penetrating beam may expand till it will show up other than the paltry pilferings of a terrier, perhaps even the sway of the political boss, notwithstanding the opacity of its bulk and origin.—New York Tribune.

First Meeting With Mosquitoes. Two Irishmen just landed in America, were encamped on the open plain. In the evening they retired to rest, and were soon attacked by swarms of mosquitoes. They took refuge under the bed clothes. At last one of them ventured to peep out, and, seeing a firefly, exclaimed in tones of terror: "Mickey, it's no use; there's one of the craythers searching for us wid a lantern."—Pearson's Weekly.

VARIETIES. Mrs. J. H. Mills is President of the State Bank of Cromwell, Mich., one of the directors of which also is a woman.

Rev. George A. Hubbell of Vineland, N. J., recently lost the sight of his right eye by the deflection into it of the sun ray upon striking a crystal inkstand.

The Berlin municipal authorities have granted license to a society to erect in public places and squares where children are in the habit of playing automatic machines for the sale of condensed milk.

Dr. Murray, the editor of the great English dictionary now in preparation, says that "disproportionableness" is now the longest word in the English language, but that "anthropomorphologically" if not the longest, is the longest that has yet appeared in his dictionary.

In times of famine bread has been baked from "wood-bran," or sawdust. This wood bread is made by selecting the sawdust of the least resinous wood—the beech, for example—and adding a little flour, some yeast and some water. When baked it resembles in ordinary appearance and taste the common brown bread of the bakers.

The First Secretary of the American Embassy in London gets \$2825 a year, the Second Secretary \$2000, and the Naval Attaché only his navy pay. These salaries do not suffice to pay the house rent, and therefore our representatives are usually, of necessity, men of private means.

Where Ignorance is Bliss. Wife—I hear that Dr. Hollman is going to preach to-morrow on the text, "Know thyself."

Husband—I don't think he ought to do that.

Wife—Why?

Husband—Because that is advising a good many of his congregation to form disreputable acquaintances.—New York Journal.

AMERICAN CAMELS.

THE "SHIP OF THE DESERT" IMPORTED FROM ARABIA AND EGYPT.

An Experiment which Proved of No Value to the Government. The Animals at Last Allowed to Wander Over the Prairies at Their Own Sweet Will.

In 1852, when millions of gold were being mined in California, while thousands of people were crossing the plains to the new Dorado, and when a transcontinental railroad was only a vague dream of a few enthusiasts, Lieutenant Edward B. Beale (afterward General Beale) was stationed at Fort Yuma, between California and Arizona on the Colorado Desert. A stream of immigration and freight passed that way every week. The disease, suffering and frequent death among the horses and mules in that dry, solar heat, convinced Lieutenant Beale that here, of all places, was where the camels of Sahara and Arabia could be used to advantage. In connection with Captain Adams, of the garrison, he wrote at length upon the subject to Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War.

The ideas of the young military men in the West had immediate and enthusiastic reception by the Secretary. A Commission was soon sent out from San Antonio, Tex., to Arizona, to ascertain the uses that camels could be put to in military transportation. The Commission made a favorable report, and, with Secretary Davis's annual report to Congress in 1852 there was a request for an appropriation for the purchase of camels for the War Department.

On March 3, 1853, a bill appropriating \$30,000 for the purpose became a law by the President's signature, and Secretary Davis appointed Major C. Wayne in December, 1854, to go to Egypt and Arabia to buy seventy-five camels.

Lieutenant Porter and Major Wayne bought their first camels in Tunis. From Egypt Major Wayne and Lieutenant Porter went leisurely over to Arabia. There they bought more camels of another breed. The expedition received at Smyrna thirty-three camels from the interior.

In the Government book Secretary Davis tells in detail how he instructed Major Wayne to proceed from Paris to Cairo, and when he had bought his camels to bring them to New York on the Naval Storeship Supply, then under command of Lieutenant D. D. Porter.

Lieutenant Porter's instructions were to await Major Wayne at some convenient point in the Mediterranean, to disembark a land force at Beirut, and to see that the expedition was amply protected against attacks from the warlike tribes of the interior. On returning, the lieutenant was to land his cargo at some point on the coast of Texas.

The storeship Supply reached India-ola, Tex., on February 10, having lost three camels on the voyage. Those that survived were well, and the whole drove was taken under the care of Captain J. N. Palmer, U. S. A., to Camp Verde, Texas, there to be kept several years. The Swanee brought in a load of forty-one camels on February 10, 1857, and these, too, were sent to the interior.

Almost from the first there was difficulty in grooming and feeding the animals. In a few weeks several died of unknown diseases, and others languished and became unfit for work. The military officers found it hard to get any hostler to attend to the camels, towards which all the cavalrymen and troopers took a violent dislike. The horses became restive and ugly when stabled or corralled with the strange beasts. There were frequent reports that a camel or two had broken away during the night and wandered away; and it has been suspected that extraordinary zeal was not always put forth to find the animals and bring them back.

From May 5, 1861, some thirty of the camels that had become partly domesticated to American ways and adapted to the climate of the Southwest, were kept at the United States forts at El Paso and Bowie, Ariz. They were fed and cared for at the expense of the War Department, but because the troopers and teamsters could not be got to use them in place of horses or mules, and especially because of the clumsiness of the harness and the unusual labor in packing, the animals were seldom used. In the last year or two of their stay at the garrison they were merely pensioners upon Uncle Sam's bounty, and were never brought into service.

In 1861 the herd had increased to forty-four head. Then the Civil War came on, and in the stir of those days in every fort in the South all attention was turned to the great crisis. The forts fell into disuse, and the beasts were allowed to wander away at will. They travelled in pairs, and sometimes in bunches of four and six, across the deserts and into the mountains. Some lived for years in the Panhandle of Texas, and in the Colorado River. In some instances the camels multiplied, but in twenty years most of them died among the mountains or were killed by the Indians.

At intervals in the last decade soldiers and cow-boys in New-Mexico and Arizona have seen the strays. Reports are that the animals have grown white with age, are as wild as any mustang, and have hard, bony hoofs, unlike the pedal cushions of the well-kept camel, and that their hide has assumed a hard, leathery appearance. It is likely there are few left in America. They have not been seen in the central part of either New-Mexico or Arizona in several years.—From the Land of Sunshine.

THINGS ABOUT MANKIND.

The liver is a most wonderful organ, containing facilities of several kinds. But perhaps the most wonderful thing in it is that part set aside to look out for and arrest poisons.

Who would think that in his eye there is a block and pulley, or "tackle," as the sailors call it, as complete and efficient as that with which a ship hoists her mainsail? There it is, however; and whenever you look at the tip of your nose the muscle that moves your eye-ball works in it. There are several of these pulleys in the body.

So inventive was nature when constructing our body that the difficulty is to stop enumerating her clever ideas. She saw that we would very soon grow tired if we had to hold up two heavy legs by means of muscular effort, so she made the hip joint airtight, and the pressure of the air alone keeps the leg in its place.

Adam's apple, if it was once that fruit that brought into the world all our woe, is now a useful organ. It serves as a sort of storage cistern of the blood for the brain. When the heart sends up too much blood Adam's apple intercepts it, or part of it; and when the direct supply from the heart temporarily runs short, Adam's apple gives up its store.

Most people know the use of the epiglottis, which saves us from imminent death every time we swallow a bit of food. At the back of the mouth the air passage and the food passage cross each other, and, whenever we swallow food, it would inevitably go into the windpipe and choke us, only that this little body pops down and covers the entrance. It is like the policeman who regulates the traffic where streets cross.

The semi-circular canal, for centuries a physiological puzzle, are an extraordinary device for enabling us to keep our balance. They are little channels, hollowed out, in connection with the ear, in the bones of the head, and partly filled with fluid lymph. As our head or body sways the fluid moves, acting like a spirit level, and informing the brain whether we are standing in the perpendicular or at a dangerous angle.—Answers.

All the People

Should keep themselves healthy and especial care should be given to this matter at this time. Health depends upon pure, rich blood, for when the blood is impure and impoverished diseases of various kinds are almost certain to result. The one true blood purifier is Hood's Sarsaparilla. By its power to purify and vitalize the blood it has proved itself to be the safeguard of health, and the record of remarkable cures effected proves that it has wonderful power over disease. It actually and permanently cures when all other preparations fail to do any good whatever.

CATARH FOR TWENTY YEARS AND CURED IN A FEW DAYS.—Nothing too simple, nothing too hard for Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder to give relief in an instant. Hon. George Taylor, of Scanlon Pa., says: "I have been a martyr to Catarrh for 20 years, constant coughing, dropping in the throat and pain in the head, very offensive breath. I tried Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. The first application gave instant relief. After using a few bottles all these symptoms of Catarrh left me. It is a great remedy." Sold by C. A. Kleim.

The Plucky Bluejay. My raspberry patch is fifty feet square, surrounded by a wire fence. So many birds make their home in the wooded rooms within ten feet that it is necessary to protect this patch by netting, which is supported by wire strung overhead. The net hangs over the sides of the fence three or four feet. Occasionally a bird gets inside, especially the blue jay. We catch them and let them go unharmed. Yesterday my man and myself were near and saw a blue jay in there with a ripe raspberry in his bill, fluttering against the net. My man went inside and chased him from one side to another three times and finally got his hands on him at where the fence rail and the net met but the bird managed the slip through his hands down between the net and then outside of the fence and gained his liberty. All this time he hung onto the berry and flew away with it. That certainly is a good illustration of bird slick.—Mechan's Monthly.

Pennsylvania Mountain Tea. Under this name the leaves of one of the golden rods, solidago odora, are in very common use as tea by families of the German race in the interior of Pennsylvania. Men gather the leaves in the summer time, and many are said to make a good living at the work. They peddle the plant in the winter time.

DROPSY CURED WITH ONE BOTTLE.—A great cure and a great testimony. "For ten years I suffered greatly from Heart Disease, Fluttering of the Heart and Smothering Spells, made my life a torment. I was confined to my bed. Dropsy set in. My physician told me to prepare for the worst. I tried Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart.—One dose gave great relief, one bottle cured the Dropsy and my heart."—Mrs. James Adams, Syracuse, N. Y. Sold by C. A. Kleim.

Walter Baker & Co.'s BREAKFAST COCOA. Absolutely Pure—Delicious—Nutritious. Costs Less than One Cent a Cup. DORCHESTER, MASS. WALTER BAKER & CO. Ltd.

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SHOES SHOES We buy right and sell right. OUR SUCCESS IS BASED ON THIS FACT. Honest trading has won us hosts of customers but we want more. We are selling good shoes, so good you ought to see them. Drop in and we will make it pay you. W. H. Moore.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF CARPET, MATTING, or OIL CLOTH, YOU WILL FIND A NICE LINE AT W. H. BROWER'S. 2nd Door above Court House. A large lot of Window Curtains in stock.

THINGS WE OUGHT TO KNOW. That it is never economical to buy a cheap soap. That coffee is one of the best disinfectants known. That health and happiness depend greatly upon the condition of the skin. That salt or ashes are useful for removing discolorations from coffee cups. That stains on the children's aprons may be removed by the use of alcohol. That the chest may be greatly strengthened by the daily use of cold water. That ink stains may be removed from marble by the use of lemon juice. That Japanese trays should not be put into hot water, as it will cause the varnish to crack and peel. That bronzes may be cleaned by careful rubbing with sweet oil, then polished with chamois. That two parts of sweet oil to one of lime water will prove soothing, when sunburned. That a soft cloth, if dipped in linseed oil, will prove efficacious in polishing tables, etc. That Javelle water will remove ink stains from carpets. That dry paint may be removed from glass by using the edge of a silver coin. That a little sweet oil put on the hinges of a creaking door will prevent the unpleasant sound. That all pieces of old linen should be carefully saved and sent to the nearest hospital. That only inferior sauce can be made from inferior fruit. That hot bread and cake can be smoothly cut by using a hot knife. That eggs will cook much more easily if covered when frying.